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August 1, 1966

Dear Misses Steinhardt and Gotti,

Your encouraging letter means much to us, and we do thank you for it. When we get such letters - and we've had a deluge from the Alan Burke show - it makes the difficulties of the past have more meaning. It is kind of you young women to take the time to write, and may I say that as long as citizens, especially the younger ones who will soon enough have their own responsibilities to bear, are willing to participate, express their opinions and not shun criticisms, then to that degree at least the democratic society is functioning.

I'd like to have time to answer your thoughtful letter as it deserves, but I just haven't. In haste, I do not know who the lawyers represented or who got them their or on whose behalf they thought there might be a profit in destroying me/my book. I dare say that whoever they acted for regret the entire thing. I do not; I think it was wonderful, and it served to let those people who saw the show know that it is the critics of the phoney inquest who are responsible and factual, not their opponents, and that criticism is what the viability of our society requires, not suppression and obfuscation.

That you local bookstore is sold out makes us both happy and sorry. All the bookstores, of course, can get WHITEWASH from us. But they can also get it from their regular wholesalers. The two largest in NYC ordered an additional 1500 last week! Thanks for your efforts in telling you friends about the book. This is important to us and to the cause of truth and justice and national honor, at least as we see it.

I am, as a matter of fact, interested in the Edwards book and its subject and I got two copies, one for a friend. I've just been too busy to read my copy.

You conclusion in the form of a question parallels my chapter "The False Oswald" to a large degree. I found it was possible to present some of the evidence without conjecture, without irresponsibility, and I expect in the future to do more with it.

Again, our sincerely appreciation for you kind expressions and your taking the time to express them.

Very truly yours,

Harold Weisberg